Tragedy

When I think of the word tragedy I immediately think of a catastrophic event such as 9/11 or pearl harbor and yes those are tragedy’s but they are not the only thing’s or events that fall under the classification of tragedy. Tragedy is defined my Merriam-Webster as “a disastrous event”. Now this could mean many different things to many different people because everyone has their own individual perception of “a disastrous event”. Many people use the word tragedy because something that they see as important to them has now become a main focus in their life due to a disastrous event. For instance one of the biggest tragedy’s in American history according to most was 9/11 while to others the biggest tragedy might have been how they lost their keys to their car so they were late to work and got fired. So how can this be and how do so many people see tragedy differently?

On September 11, 2001 2,819 people lost their lives in a massive terrorist attack against this country. This has to be probably one if not the most Tragic incident that has happened in many years and in the eyes of many Americans this will be a day that we all will remember. Now when we go back and look at the definition of tragedy I think 9/11 fits it perfectly because with a loss of 2,819 Americans and 2 US landmarks then I feel that it is officially a disastrous event and has earned the right to be called a Tragedy. This is not the only thing that has happened is the US; for instance on December 7th 1941 the US naval base in Hawaii was attacked by the Japanese is effort to hinder our naval capabilities. This is another great example of a tragedy because the Japanese destroyed some of our naval fleet and killed many men in the process. I am very sure there are other great examples of tragedy in our American history and maybe in other countries history as well however who says that a tragedy always involves death and destruction and maybe sometimes a tragedy might be very personal and might not be that big of a deal to many people but it is a huge deal to you and you dub it a tragedy.

So imagine this you wake up at your normal time just like any other day and your do your normal morning routine just like day after day only today when you go to get in your car you cannot find our keys. So after 20 minutes of looking and now late for work you get in your car and drive to work. Once you get to work and walk in you are immediately confronted by your boss who politely asks you into his office where he proceeds to yell at you and then later on fires you. So does this qualify as a tragedy well maybe in your eyes it does because you are now jobless and now have no ways to pay the bills. However do you think that Steve down the street cares about your event today? Well I think not so I suppose that a huge stipulation to the definition of Tragedy is that it only has relevance to those it affects. So for instance 9/11 I considered a huge tragedy because it is so public and it affected so many people’s lives but when we get down to it didn’t this guy who just lost his job just go through a disastrous event in his life. Yes he did that is why so many different events have the label tragedy because everyone has different events affect them in different ways so that is why some events might be tragic to some while they are no big deal at all to others.

So personally when I think of a tragedy I think of mass destruction of and death however I can also see tragedy a something much smaller as well like if someone was to get in an accident and be paralyzed. I guess what I am trying to get at is that tragedy can be big or small I just think that the magnitude of a tragedy is often associated with the amount of people’s lives if affects. That is exactly why I think 9/11 is such a big tragedy not just by how much destruction it caused or how many people that died but also by the amount of American lives that it affected. Personally I think that if we asked everyone no one would have the same definition of tragedy.

Each and every person I’m sure has his or her own personal example of a tragedy in their life and I guarantee not everyone would result in a death and destruction. However may people see tragedy that way while others see it on a smaller scale and that is exactly why tragedy will never mean the same thing to everybody. I’m sure that if we compare losing your job to 9/11 most would say 9/11, however maybe that guy who lost his keys is for another country and 9/11 has no significance to him then I’m sure his job might be the most tragic thing to happen in his life so I guess all I’m saying is that Tragedy lies in the eye of the beholder and only you know what a tragedy really is.